

## Albanian Spring?



Since the 9<sup>th</sup> of March protests have erupted in Albania in response to the huge rise of the cost of food and fuel, priced at 180 lekë (€1.5) at the pump before the Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February, a litre of diesel now costs up to 290 lekë (€2.37). The Albanian government in response set up a National Fuel Administration Board to check the oil companies and adopted a “Social Resistance Package” the protesters made demands to cut more taxes in fuel and VAT on basic food items and have declared that if their demands aren’t met they will oust the government.



But what do these protests mean for the future of Albania and are they important at all? These protests are extremely crucial for the future of Albania, these are the first protests in the country that aren't headed by a party here and 30 years, they are massive protests for the metrics of Albania. One should keep in mind that no party or syndicate in Albania currently has the capacity to organise such large continuous protests for days immediately, the only organization that seems to "head" the protests in a sense is "Organizata Politike" one should consider them like the diem25 of Albania, but they don't control it or started it in any way. At the beginning of the protests the organization officially declared support for them and that it will take place in them, so it is clear they don't control them. Also, one can understand that they don't control them because while the government acted swiftly to take some measures and will probably capitulate to the demands of the protesters as much as it can the protests continue and threaten the government, these protests represent the anger of Albanians, the anger they have because of the conditions they live in, and this isn't about the economic conditions only, it is about how Albanian society has been destroyed, how the Albanian family has been attacked and damaged, how the Albanian girls are prostituted and the Albanian youngsters are being fed to the mafia and those that aren't immigrate and leave the country with no stable workforce and future, it's about the honour of the Albanians!

Albanians have endured and fought for thousands of years enemies so powerful that one doesn't understand how we could survive but the damage done in these 30 years by the West is the worst. What the Roman Empire couldn't do to the Albanian populations 2000 years ago the American Empire does now, they have butchered the Albanian language, costumes and identity. This isn't the end of the American occupation era but this is the beginning of its end, the foundations that the Americans built in this country when Socialism fell are starting to break, rapidly. This is obvious from the mongering of the Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama of Russian involvement and pro-Russian elements, Rama claimed *"I read a message that came to me two days ago from **Brussels** where he says 'do you know who is behind those protests in Tirana? ...**Russia** has high hopes for economic protests"* Rama also called the protests a national shame and claimed that Albania is the only NATO country that has these kinds of protests he even tweeted that *"only the **Kremlin** views these scenes with admiration"* and yesterday he met with Josep Borrell, High

Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy while Borrell stated that the EU is worried about the involvement and influence of Russia in the Balkans. All these while the EU delegation to Albania and US embassy to Albania have made no statement regarding the protests, one familiar with Albanian politics knows that if Rama breathes the wrong way and Basha looks the wrong they make statement but for these protests they don't? Their pages on Facebook are filled with hundreds of comments asking them to take a stance and bashing them for their hypocrisy.



The people don't just protest for the fuel and food prices, this was the last drop, the war on Ukraine and the stance of the West made Albanians realize what they have been suspecting the last years, that the West never cared about Albania and actually never helped it. From trying to overthrow the sovereign Albanian government multiple times, from bringing chaos to Albania in the 1997 civil war their agents caused and then occupying it with NATO armies, from destroying the Albanian army completely, from taking Kosovo for themselves, from fighting the Albanians in North Macedonia in 2001, from trying to dump their chemicals in Albania to completely destroying our society, state, language and culture the recent years the Americans never helped us! Everywhere there is talk about the first anti-American movement in the nation since the 90s, the lackeys of PD and the Government will try to convince you otherwise, the internet goons that serve a specific agenda will cry that we are wrong, the few Albanian labour aristocrats will declare that this is crazy and Albanians are in love with the West and the US and the immigrants in the West that have become the slave of the Western man for a few more bucks will start

rambling about the danger of communism and Russia. But the reader shouldn't be fooled by them, the people in the alleys, in the family tables, in gatherings whisper about this anti-American wind that's gusting all over Albania. They can't deny that because their screeches reveal the danger they feel. We ought to remember that the imperialists and colonialists tried the same "trick" with Albanians in the 40s, they promised the rightful Albanian areas in return for their control, they spread propaganda that the Albanians loved them and showed images of Albanians nazi saluting and bowing to the Italian king, the result? Albanians led one of the greatest resistances against the Italian fascists and German nazis, killing 26.000 of them and achieving liberation without one single foreign soldier stepping foot in Albania. The History of the Albanian nation shows that Albanians no matter the hardships, no matter the enemy end up on the right side of history eventually. And this will happen again!

-Platon Stafa

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